(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (c) No, Sir.

(b) and (d) Do not arise.

International rail corridor

285. SHRI R. P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a feasibility study has been undertaken to create an international rail corridor to link India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Bhutan and Nepal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the pattern of funding the project, and its present status?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No study has been undertaken by Ministry of Railways for creating international rail corridor to link India Bangladesh, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Bhutan and Nepal.

(b) Does not arise.

Increase in tatkal charges

286. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the railways have taken a decision to make an increase in the 'tatkal charges' payable by passengers undertaking journey at short notice;

(b) if so, the details in regard thereto;

(c) the reasons and justification for steep increase in the 'tatkal charges',

(d) whether the Railways have also taken a decision to discontinue with the practice of attaching 'tatkal coaches';

(e) if so, the manner in which the passengers purchasing tickets at short notice are likely to be accommodated in trains; and

(f) the trains for which tickets at short notice shall not be issued?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The existing and new Tatkal charges are as under:—

Sl.No.	Class	Existing Tatkal Chages	Revised Tatkal Chages	
			During non-peak period (15th July to 15th September)	Other than non-peak period
(i)	AC2-tier	Rs. 200/-	Rs. 200/-	Rs. 300/-
(ii)	AC3-tier	Rs. 150/-	Rs. 200/-	Rs. 300/-
(iii)	AC Chair Car	Rs. 150/-	Rs. 75/-	Rs. 150/-
(iv)	Sleeper	Rs. 50/-	Rs. 75/-	Rs. 150/-

The revised charges are being made effective in trains phase-wise starting from 14h November 2004 for the journeys commencing from 15.11.2004 under the new Tatkal scheme.

(c) New Tatkal Scheme which started in trains phase-wise from 14.11.2004 has many passenger friendly features eliminating the shortcomings in the pevious Scheme. The charges had to be revised to stop misuse of the facility.

(d) to (f) Instead of earmarking of full coach in the previous Tatkal Scheme, suitable Tatkal quota has been earmarked in various classes in Mail/Express trains including Rajdhani/Shatabdi/Jan Shatabdi Express trains under the New Tatkal Scheme. All Mail/Expess trains will be covered in due course of time.

New technology in S&T meant for level crossings

287. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are implementing new technology in S&T system, which provides warnings to road users at level crossings to control rail accidents;